Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Saturday 16 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 17 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Saturday 16 Dec 2023 at 02:01

Confidence: High for cloudy and windy conditions over the weekend with rain at times. Lower confidence for details next week with some uncertainty in the track and development of weather fronts.

Headline for Saturday 16 Dec 2023: Strong and gusty winds. Poor visibility and occasional rain.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 16 Dec 2023

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** Low Likelihood
Gales High Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Low Likelihood	**Poor visibility** High Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light rain	Light rain	Light rain	Light rain	Light rain	Light rain
Precipitation probability					
70%	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%

Forecast for Saturday 16 Dec 2023

Weather: Cloudy with occasional light rain or drizzle but some drier spells in the east around Ullswater. Very strong winds on the tops and ridges giving difficult walking conditions.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Less than 10%.

Low cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud and fog above 400m will bring some difficult conditions to navigate in. Far eastern hills will have more broken and slightly higher cloud bases. At lower levels, below the cloud, visibility generally hazy falling to a few kilometres in drizzly outbreaks.

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Forecast for Saturday 16 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	36/44 SW	38/47 SW	38/48 SW	37/47 SW	35/45 SW	37/48 SW	38/49 SW
600	32/41 SW	35/46 SW	37/48 SW	32/43 SW	32/43 SW	34/46 SW	34/46 SW
300	10/32 SW	13/36 SW	14/36 SW	13/34 SW	13/32 SW	14/35 SW	15/38 SW
Valley	8/25 SW	13/31 SW	14/31 SW	14/31 SW	14/30 SW	15/33 SW	16/34 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	4/-3	4/-3	4/-3	4/-3	4/-2	4/-2	4/-3
600	6/-0	6/-0	6/-0	6/0	6/0	6/0	6/0
300	7/5	8/4	8/4	8/4	8/4	8/4	8/4
Valley	9/7	9/6	10/7	9/6	10/7	10/6	10/7
Freezing Level*	2200m	2200m	2100m	2000m	2000m	2000m	1900m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Very windy with gusts of 50 to 60mph above 600m, perhaps 70mph on high exposed ridges. The combination of strong winds, low cloud and drizzle will make for some unpleasant and potentially hazardous conditions.

Forecast for Sunday 17 Dec 2023

Weather: A cloudy day with outbreaks of rain or drizzle, these perhaps becoming persistent and heavy in the afternoon. Very strong and gusty winds with difficult and potentially dangerous walking conditions on exposed ridges.

Maximum wind: Southwesterly 40 to 50mph gusts 70mph, perhaps 80mph on high ridges in the morning.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Less than 10%.

Low cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud and fog above 400m will bring some difficult conditions to navigate in. Far eastern hills will have more broken and slightly higher cloud bases. At lower levels, below the cloud, visibility generally hazy falling to a few kilometres in drizzly outbreaks.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 9C rising to 11C.
At 800m: Plus 6C.
Freezing level: Well above the summits.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Friday 15 December Location: Helvellyn summit at 1150 Full report: Ground conditions have remained fairly stable over the past 48 hours with the only noticeable trend being a slight softening of the remaining snow during the day accompanied with an extremely slow thaw. However, owing to the height, aspect and location of the remaining snow patches, the thaw will probably continue to be a slow process despite forecasted milder temperatures. That said, however, the vast majority of the Lakeland fells and paths are now clear of snow and ice. The remaining snow patches are located above 750m in sheltered spots and hollows and on predominantly north and east facing aspects. Although few in number, such snow patches can consist of hard, sometimes icy, snow especially around their edges and on popular routes where compressed by walkers' boots. They are, though, generally easy to avoid. One exception to this is on the Swirrls route up Helvellyn where a little scrambling is involved to avoid a steep bank of snow blocking the path. This was causing a few difficulties today, especially in descent, so for those wishing to avoid this section completely but not wanting to ascend Helvellyn via the edges (which can be done without stepping foot on snow), the Wythburn route is recommended. Aside from the remaining snow, the main hazard encountered today was the normal one of slippery, wet and greasy rock which requires care especially on steep and exposed routes such as on Striding and Swirral Edges. For those out on Saturday, this is likely to be compounded with strong and gusty winds. Despite the milder weather in the valleys, the summit temperature around midday was only just above freezing with the windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) at minus 6 degrees C. Thus, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. In the cloud, I was asked several times today where the summit was etc. Whilst obviously happy to help, it is important to be fully competent with your own navigation and carry a map and compass. Especially when in fog, there may not be anyone else around to ask! Temperature: plus 1.8 C, Maximum wind speed 24.8 mph, Wind chill: minus 5.7 C, Average wind speed: 19 mph.

Issued at: 02:01 on Sat 16 Dec 2023

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